

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2004. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 7, 11, 12 and 18.

By the present Amendment, each of the previously dependent claims 2, 7 and 18 has been rewritten into dependent form to place it in condition for allowance, in light of the indication of allowable subject matter regarding these claims. All other claims either depend from these new allowable claims, either directly or indirectly. Claim 17 has been cancelled, without prejudice to Applicants' right to file this claim or a similar claim in a Continuation application. As such, the only claims remaining in the application are now either in condition for allowance based upon the indication of allowable subject matter, or depend from a claim indicated as allowable. Therefore, entry of this Amendment and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

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this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 566.38877X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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GEM/dlt

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